Clean Copy of the Claims

1. (**Cancelled**)

2. (**Previously Presented**) A method according to claim 5, further comprising applying the electrical voltage over the pipeline between the electrical contacts until a zone of ice having a thickness of at least 5 mm closest to an inner wall of the pipeline melts, such that flow of the fluid through the pipeline is resumed or maintained.

3-4. (**Cancelled**)

5. (**Previously Presented**) A method for removing plugs of at least ice in a subsea pipeline, which is electrically conductive, exhibits ohmic resistance, and is a conduit for a fluid, the method comprising:

directly heating the pipeline electrically to a temperature above the melting point of ice, but below the melting point of a hydrate;

applying an electrical voltage over the pipeline between two electrical contacts, thereby causing an electric current to pass through the pipeline to resume or maintain flow of fluid through the pipeline; and

subsequently applying a second plug-counteracting procedure to remove any ice or hydrate plug from within the pipeline.

6-7. (**Cancelled**)

8. (**Previously Presented**) A method as in claim 5, in which the second plug-counteracting procedure is chemical injection.

9. (**Previously Presented**) A method as in claim 5, in which the second plug-counteracting procedure is depressurization.

10. (**Previously Presented**) A system for removing plugs of at least ice in a subsea pipeline, which is electrically conductive, exhibits ohmic resistance, and is a conduit for a fluid hydrocarbon, which pipeline can be blocked by plugs of ice and hydrates, the system comprising:

an electrical current source;

a support device supporting the current source;

a first subsea electrical connector and a second subsea electrical connector, each of said electrical connectors being in electrical contact with the pipeline; and

a riser cable that extends between the support device and the pipeline, said riser cable comprising a first electrical conductor and a second electrical conductor for conducting electrical current between the electrical current source to a respective one of the first and second subsea electrical connectors, wherein an electric circuit is formed from the electrical current source, through the first electrical conductor, over the first subsea electrical connector, through the pipeline, over the second subsea electrical connector, and through the second electrical conductor back to the current source,

wherein the electrical current source is provided for generating current sufficient to cause heating of the pipeline to a temperature above the melting point of ice, but below the melting

point of a hydrate, such that the permeability through the pipeline is resumed or maintained, and so as to enable a second plug-counteracting procedure for plug removal or hindrance of ice and hydrate plug formation.

11. (**Previously Presented**) A system as in claim 10, in which the electrical current source is provided for generating current sufficient to melt a zone of ice having thickness of at least 5 mm closest to an inner wall of the pipeline, such that flow of the fluid through the pipeline is resumed or maintained.

12. (**Previously Presented**) A system as in claim 10, in which the support device is a surface vessel that is equipped to extend the riser cable down to the pipeline for connection of the first electrical conductor and a second electrical conductor to the respective first subsea electrical connector and the second subsea electrical connector.

13. (**Cancelled**)

14. (**Previously Presented**) A method according to claim 5, wherein the electrical voltage applied over the pipeline between the electrical contacts is sufficient to melt only part of the ice plug closest to an inner wall of the pipeline, the part of the ice plug forming a zone having a thickness of at least 5 mm closest to the inner wall of the pipeline to allow the flow of the fluid through the pipeline to be resumed or maintained.